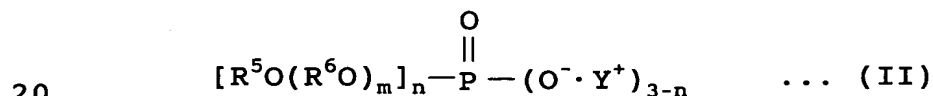


## CLAIMS

1. A water-permeable agent for fiber comprising a quaternary ammonium salt (A) represented by the following formula (I);



wherein  $R^1$  is a  $C_8$  to  $C_{24}$  aliphatic hydrocarbon group;  $R^2$  is a  $C_8$  to  $C_{18}$  aliphatic hydrocarbon group when  $R^1$  is a  $C_8$  to  $C_{18}$  aliphatic hydrocarbon group, and a hydrogen atom,  $C_1$  to  $C_3$  aliphatic hydrocarbon group, or  $C_1$  to  $C_3$  hydroxyalkyl group when  $R^1$  is a  $C_{19}$  to  $C_{24}$  aliphatic hydrocarbon group; each of  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  is, independently, a hydrogen atom,  $C_1$  to  $C_3$  aliphatic hydrocarbon group, or  $C_1$  to  $C_3$  hydroxyalkyl group; and X is an ionic residue selected from the group consisting of halogen ions, nitrate ion, acetate ion, methyl sulfate ion, ethyl sulfate ion and dimethyl phosphate ion; and a phosphate salt (B) represented by the following formula (II);



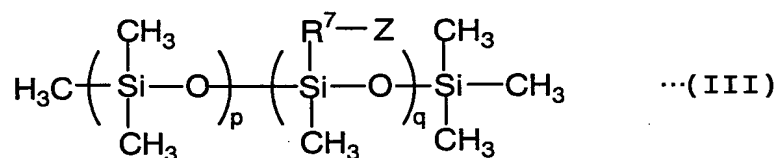
wherein  $R^5$  is a  $C_6$ - $C_{20}$  aliphatic hydrocarbon group;  $R^6$  is an ethylene and/or propylene group; m is an integer from 0 to 15; Y is an ionic residue selected from the group consisting of hydrogen ion, sodium ion, potassium ion, ammonium ion, diethanol ammonium ion, and triethanol ammonium ion; and n is an integer from 1 to 2; one of which constitutes 20 to 80 weight percent and the other constitutes 80 to 20 weight percent of the total of said quaternary ammonium salt (A) and said phosphate salt (B).

2. A water-permeable agent for fiber according to Claim 1, wherein each of  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  of the formula (I) is

independently a C<sub>8</sub> to C<sub>18</sub> aliphatic hydrocarbon group, and each of R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> of the formula (I) is independently a C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>3</sub> aliphatic hydrocarbon group.

5 3. A water-permeable agent for fiber according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein R<sup>5</sup> of the formula (II) is a C<sub>8</sub> to C<sub>18</sub> aliphatic hydrocarbon group and R<sup>6</sup> of the formula (II) is an ethylene group.

10 4. A water-permeable agent for fiber according to Claim 1, further comprising 5 to 20 weight percent of polyoxyalkylene-modified silicone represented by the formula (III);



15 wherein R<sup>7</sup> is a methylene group, ethylene group, propylene group, N-(aminoethyl) methylimino group, or N-(aminopropyl) propylimino group; Z is a polyoxyalkylene group containing at least 20 weight percent of polyoxyethylene moieties; and p and q are  
 20 integers which attain a molecular weight of 1,000 to 100,000 and silicon content of 20 to 70 weight percent.

5. A water-permeable agent for fiber according to Claim 1 to be applied to nonwoven fabric.

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6. A water-permeable agent for fiber according to Claim 1 to be applied to hydrophobic synthetic fiber or composite fiber thereof.

30 7. A water-permeable agent for fiber according to Claim

6, wherein the hydrophobic synthetic fiber is polyolefin fiber.

8. Water-permeable fiber comprising fiber and the  
5 water-permeable agent according to Claim 1 applied to the  
fiber by 0.1 to 2.0 weight percent.

9. Water-permeable fiber comprising fiber and the  
water-permeable agent according to Claim 4 applied to the  
10 fiber by 0.1 to 2.0 weight percent.